



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks

U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Sequoia National Forest
Inyo National Forest



Interagency News Release / Fire Update

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Kaweah-Kern Complex – New Management Team Assumes Command of Fires

The Northern Rockies 2 Fire Use Management Team (FUMT) assumed command this morning of two suppression fires and 13 wildland fire use projects within Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and Sequoia and Inyo National Forests. The team arrived on October 1, and spent the full day on October 2 shadowing the Rocky Mountain FUMT.

Wayne Cook, incident commander of the Northern Rockies 2 FUMT, stated that he was pleased with the smooth transition. “Barbara Bonefield and her team have done a fine job in managing these projects, and we look forward to continuing their good work.” In fact, Cook’s team has implemented the recommendation of Bonefield’s team to reduce some of the resources that have been working on the Kaweah-Kern Complex, including hot shot crews and helicopters. This will help to continue to reduce costs, while still leaving an ample number of people and equipment at these fires. “Should the situation change,” Cook said, “we should have no trouble obtaining additional crews and engines to deal with the circumstances.”

The following is a summary of the wildland fires in the Kaweah-Kern Complex:

- **Homer’s Nose 2** – This fire is now in monitor status. Daily helicopter flights are watching the activity of this fire, especially in the areas of the fire that are too rugged for firefighters to construct containment line. Growth continues to be slow in the area. The fire has affected 205 acres.
- **Paradise 2** - Fire line has been completed along the southern flank of this fire. The Arrowhead Hotshots will work in the area again today, looking for areas where they can safely build line on the eastern and western sides. Like Homer’s Nose 2, steep terrain makes this work very difficult. The fire has affected 165 acres; yesterday it exhibited short runs and single-tree burning.

The following is an update for current wildland fire use projects in the Kaweah-Kern Complex. These are lightning-caused fires allowed to spread naturally to improve forest health by reducing ground fuels and maintaining a natural fire cycle. Trails remain closed in the areas of these fires to provide for public safety.

(more)

- **Williams Fire (Kings Canyon National Park)** – Activity continued on this fire with torching of trees and short surface runs, predominately on the fire’s west side. Estimated acreage is 2300 acres.
- **West Kern Fire (Sequoia National Park, Sequoia and Inyo National Forests)** – This fire spotted again across the Kern River near Little Kern Lake. The fire is also active in the Kern Lake and on the northern perimeter of the fire. The Brown’s Camp area has been quiet. Total estimated size is 6500 acres of which 2700 acres are on the Sequoia National Forest and 400 on the Inyo National Forest. Fire personnel will continue to monitor this fire.
- **Giant Fire (Sequoia National Park)** – This fire continues smoldering and creeping in surface vegetation. Yesterday, crews burned out a 20 acre area near Huckleberry Meadow, bringing the fire’s edge to the trail. This has reduced the amount of fuel in the area, reducing the potential for small spot fires. The estimated size of the Giant fire is 260 acres. Several popular trails remain closed for the safety of the public. Hazard trees continue to fall in the fire perimeter, and there are numerous hot spots.

The ten remaining wildland fire use projects showed little activity.

In addition, **Sequoia National Forest** is managing two wildland fire use projects in the Cannell Meadow Ranger District. Forest staff will continue to monitor these lightning-caused fires that started on September 3.

- **Hooker Fire** – Located southeast of Hooker Meadow, this fire has grown to approximately 273 acres.
- **Albanita Fire** – This fire, located about two miles north of the Hooker Fire, is approximately 257 acres in size.

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